

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FGWISNER:JLH

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WHITE HOUSE - MR. INDERFURTH

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 062816

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: AFRICAN MINI-SUMMIT IN NIGERIA

REF: USUN 849

1. FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG. WE HAVE CONSIDERED GARBA'S INTERESTING SUGGESTION THAT THE NIGERIANS INVITE CALLAGHAN AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS TO JOIN PRESIDENT CARTER IN LAGOS. YOU SHOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH GARBA AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

-- THE MINI-SUMMIT HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT AND WE WELCOME IN PRINCIPLE THE NIGERIANS INVITING THE BRITISH AND FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS TO MEET WITH GENERAL OBASANJO AND PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE PRESIDENT'S STAY IN LAGOS.

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-- THE MINI-SUMMIT SHOULD NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF THE MEETING IN NEW YORK OF THE FRONT LINE, NIGERIA AND THE MALTA AND SALISBURY PARTIES WHICH WE HAVE PROPOSED FOR MARCH 16 OR 20. RATHER THE MINI-SUMMIT CAN BE USED TO BUILD ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEW YORK MEETING. IT COULD PROVIDE THE AFRICANS, BRITISH AND OURSELVES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS THE NEW YORK MEETINGS RESULTS

AND CONSIDER NEXT STEPS IN DEALING WITH THE RHODESIAN

PROBLEM. A MINI-SUMMIT WOULD BE LESS USEFUL TO ALL OF US IF IT DID NOT CARRY FORWARD THE WORK OF THE NEW YORK MEETING.

-- THE NIGERIANS SHOULD THEREFORE LEND THEIR INFLUENCE TO BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER IN NEW YORK AS AN INITIAL AND NECESSARY FIRST STEP AS WELL AS ORGANIZING A LAGOS MINI SUMMIT.

2. FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT YOU ARE ABOUT AT THE END OF THE ROAD WITH RESPECT TO OBASANJO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE KANO VISIT. THE MINI-SUMMIT MAY OFFER A WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA AND WE WISH TO HOLD THE SCHEDULE ON APRIL 2 OPEN FOR THIS EVENT. YOU SHOULD HOWEVER PROVIDE US YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THE SECOND DAY COULD BE USED IF KANO IS DROPPED FROM THE SCHEDULE AND IF A MINI-SUMMIT IS NOT POSSIBLE. TIME FOR BILATERAL TALKS WITH OBASANJO SHOULD BE PLANNED. IN ADDITION YOU SHOULD RECOMMEND COLOR EVENTS IN OR NEAR LAGOS INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT AND OBASANJO WHICH WOULD HOLD THE ATTENTION OF THE VISITING PRESS. WE WANT TO SAVE THE PRESIDENT'S FREE TIME DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF APRIL 2.

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